

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (*original*) A method for manufacturing a fabric using a power loom driven by driving means, comprising the steps of:

(a) separating a warp into an upper part and a lower part to form a shed by means of rotation of said driving means;

(b) accelerating a weft thread toward said shed by means of rotation of said driving means;

(c) passing said weft thread through said shed by means of rotation of said driving means;

(d) decelerating said weft thread passed through said shed by means of rotation of said driving means;

(e) returning said warp to close said shed by means of rotation of said driving means; and

(f) beating said weft thread inserted into said warp in said step (c) to draw up said weft thread into near side by means of rotation of said driving means;

a rotational speed of said driving means during said steps (b) and (d) being lower than a rotational speed of said driving means during said step (c).

2. (*original*) A method for manufacturing a fabric according to claim 1, wherein said rotational speed of said driving means during said steps (b) and (d) is $1/4$ or less the rotational speed of said driving means during said step (c).

3. (*previously presented*) A method for manufacturing a fabric according to claim 1, wherein said driving means is an electric motor and said rotational speed of said electric motor is varied by an inverter.

4. (*previously presented*) A method for manufacturing a fabric according to claim 1, wherein said driving means is an electric motor and said rotational speed of said electric motor is varied by switching a switch in response to a beating motion by which a reed is moved.

5. (*currently amended*) An apparatus for manufacturing a fabric comprising:

driving means for generating rotational force;

healds for transferring a warp upward or downward to form a shed at predetermined timing in response to a rotation of said driving means;

a shuttle for holding a weft thread and transferred into said shed so as to cross said warp at predetermined timing in response to a rotation of said driving means;

a shuttle box for slidably supporting said shuttle and picking said shuttle into said shed at predetermined timing in response to a rotation of said driving means;

a reed attached to said shuttle box for beating said weft thread inserted into said warp by picking said shuttle, said reed being reciprocated at predetermined timing by means of a rotation of said driving means to draw up said weft thread into a near side; and

means for varying rotational speed of said driving means at predetermined timing, wherein said means for varying rotational speed decreases rotational speed of said driving means at least when said shuttle is accelerated toward said shed and when said shuttle is decelerated after passing through said shed.

6. (*canceled*)

7. (*previously presented*) An apparatus for manufacturing a fabric according to claim 5, wherein said driving means is an electric motor and said means for varying rotational speed is an inverter connected to said electric motor.

8. *(previously presented)* An apparatus for manufacturing a fabric according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus further comprises a limit switch that is switched by means of reciprocating motion of said shuttle box and said means for varying rotational speed varies rotational speed of said driving means on the basis of the position of said limit switch.